

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

January 30, 1998 LB 822

retirement system, then perhaps we ought to look at what this retirement system is designed for. Is it designed to be the soul income of teachers in retirement, or is it designed to be one of two retirement incomes that teachers would have? I think it makes a difference in how you approach the problem depending on what assumption is made. Senator Wesely spoke with such a resigned tone in his voice and I understand why, because time and time and time again we are doing this without ever asking ourselves, where does it stop and why are we putting money in at this end of the retirement...of the life cycle and work cycle of this or any other occupation? I wish there were some way that we could have a debate on this matter where everybody's mind was open at the beginning. What's happened, characteristically, over the years is that this kind of bill comes back year after year, after year, after year, and by the time it has been here for three or four or five years, people figure out a way to say yes, and exacerbate and continue a trend that I think makes no sense in our society whatsoever. If there are individual cases of burnout, there are other ways of dealing with it. Nobody has to stay in the system.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It is possible to adjust people within a system. It is possible to arrange for periods of time off. It is possible for people simply to take other jobs. Why should they have the expectation of early retirement? There are a number of other alternatives, which I don't think we've ever adequately addressed. The amendment that's before you would substitute a rule of 89 for a rule of 85. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, member of the Legislature. Just a few comments, I don't want to take up too much time. You have to realize that not all teachers are going to take advantage of this, not all teachers; those that feel as though they can afford to retire, and you have to realize they are not going to get as much money as they would have if they wait until they are 60 or 65. They've got...I've seen some figures where it would be about \$400 a month less at 55, and if you waited until 60, it would be \$400 more, and if you waited